

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02  
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01  
ACDA-12 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCE-00 EUR-12  
/085 W

-----022807 291522Z /50

O 291354Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7335  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/DSAA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1713

THIS IS A JOINT DEFENSE/STATE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS LE  
SUBJ: GOL REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 071521 (DTG 202230Z MAR 78)

1. DATT MET WITH GENERAL KHOURY MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS DETAILED  
EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. ACCORDING LIST PREPARED BY KHOURY, HE  
REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ASAP TO REPLACE AND SUPPLEMENT THOSE  
REQUIRED FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 3,000-MAN BRIGADE WHICH IS NOW  
PREPARING TO MOVE SOUTH:

A. WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION  
M-16 RIFLES - 3000  
5.56 CARTRIDGES - 3,000,000  
81MM MORTARS - 18  
HAND GRENADES - 6000

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B. FIELD EQUIPMENT  
6-8 MAN SQUAD TENTS - 500  
FIELD KITCHENS - 10

C. CLOTHING  
FATIGUE UNIFORMS - 6000  
HATS, BELTS, BOOTS, FIELD JACKETS W/LINERS, MESSKITS - 3000

STOCKINGS - 6000

D. VEHICLES

JEEPS - 100

2 1/2 TON TRUCKS - 150

M-113 - 110

WRECKERS - 10

(RIFLES W/AMMUNITION, TENTS AND THE UNIFORMS ARE THE MOST CRITICAL ITEMS. LEBANESE SOURCES INDICATE THAT SHIP CARRYING TRUCKS AND JEEPS WILL BE ARRIVING BEIRUT NEXT WEEK THEREFORE THESE NOT CONSIDERED CRITICAL TO SUPPORT DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH. 81MM MORTARS MIGHT ALSO BE PROVIDED FROM FY 77 CASES IF THEIR DELIVERY CAN BE MADE IN NEAR FUTURE. KHOURY ADDED M113 APC'S TO LIST IN ORDER TO CALL ATTENTION TO FUTURE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO INITIALLY DEPLOY HIS BRIGADE TO SOUTH WITH M113'S).

2. DATT RAISED QUESTION OF USING REMAINING M-16 RIFLES WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED UNDER FY 77 SA PROGRAM. KHOURY PRODUCED LIST OF UNITS TO WHOM RIFLES HAD BEEN ISSUED AND THOSE TO WHOM HE PLANNED TO ISSUE THE REMAINDER. AT PRESENT THERE ARE 600 RIFLES WITH THE ARMY HQ BN, 1200 WITH THE NEW DEFENSE BRIGADE FORMED AT YARZE, 600 WITH THE BEIRUT BATTALION AT HENRI CHEHAB BARRACKS AND 600 AT FIYYADIYAH FOR A TOTAL OF 3000. THE REMAINING 2000 ARE BEING ISSUED THIS WEEK TO AN ADDITIONAL 600 MAN BATTALION BEING FORMED IN BEKAA TO TAKE PLACE OF DEPLOYING TROOPS AND PROTECT SUPPLY  
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LINE, 600 TO BATTALION IN SIDON AND 600 TO BATTALION IN TRIPOLI FOR A TOTAL OF 1800. THE ADDITIONAL 200 WILL BE KEPT FOR ISSUE TO SMALL DETACHMENTS SUCH AS MP'S, ENGINEERS, ETC. KHOURY SAID HE EXPECTS DELIVERY OF GERMAN G-3 7.62 RIFLES IN LATE MAY AND THAT IF WE COULD NOT SUPPLY M-16'S BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL HE WOULD HAVE TO QUICKLY GO COMMERCIAL TO PURCHASE RIFLES.

3. DATT ASKED IF HE COULD EXPEDITE G-3'S AND KHOURY SAID HE HAD ALREADY TRIED WITH NO RESULTS. HE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING HIS PLANS TO USE THE 1800 RIFLES IN STOCK TO ARM THE THREE BATTALIONS BEING EARMARKED FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH LEBANON AS ONE SOLUTION, BUT SAID THIS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT AND FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. IF HE IS TO PREPARE A SECOND BRIGADE TO GO SOUTH IN 60-90 DAYS AS WELL AS KEEP AN EYE ON THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN THE NORTH HE MUST ARM TRIPOLI. HIS IDEA ON THE SIDON BN WAS CLEARLY STATED AS ONE OF SELF DEFENSE FOR THAT UNIT IF THE LAF GETS INTO A FIGHT WITH THE PALESTINIANS ELSEWHERE IN THE SOUTH AFTER DEPLOYMENT AS WELL AS POSSIBLY USING THEM TO OPEN ANOTHER LINE OF COMMUNICATION ALONG THE COAST.

4. KHOURY RESTATED HIS SCHEDULE FOR MOVING THE FORCE SOUTH AND SAID HE HAD TOLD GEN SIILASVUO THAT HE COULD MOVE WITHIN 30 DAYS

OF 25 MARCH, BUT HE EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO DEPLOY IN 12-15 DAYS (6-9 APRIL). KHOURY SAW NO REASON TO DELAY THE ARRIVAL OF THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM NOR DID HE FEEL THE ARRIVAL OF THE TEAM WOULD DELAY HIS PLANNED DEPLOYMENT TO THE SOUTH. HE SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE DEFINITE PLANS UNTIL UNIFIL HAS SORTED OUT ITS OWN DISPOSITIONS. HE EXPECTED TO BE SOUTH OF THE UNIFIL POSITIONS ALONG THE LITANI. (INFO FROM MEETING WITH GEN ERSKINE LATER THAT AFTERNOON REVEALED THAT LAF MAY INITIALLY DEPLOY ALONG LITANI WITH UNIFIL.) HE SAID HIS MAIN LINE OF COMMUNICATION WOULD BE THROUGH BEKAA VALLEY - IT WAS THE SHORTEST AND, WITH SYRIAN COOPERATION, POSSIBLY THE SAFEST. HE ALSO IS CONTEMPLATING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS (UPPER SHUF, JAZZIN, KFAR HUNAH, AL AYSHIYAH, AND KHardALI BRIDGE.) HE CONSIDERED THE SEA ROUTE FROM BEIRUT TO NAKOURA AS ANOTHER OPTION BUT SAW IT AS MORE AN AUGMENTATION ROUTE  
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THAN A PRIMARY ROUTE.

5. THE FORCE PRESENTLY PLANNED TO GO SOUTH WILL BE BUILT AROUND THE TWO CONFESSIONALLY INTEGRATED BATTALIONS IN THE BEKAA WITH A THIRD BATTALION MADE UP OF FOUR 125 MAN COMPANIES FROM TRIPOLI, BEIRUT, SIDON AND MT LEBANON (SARBA) AREAS. SUPPORT WILL INCLUDE TWO ARMORED CAR COMPANIES WITH NINE SALADINS EACH, SIX TANKS, A 12 GUN ARTY BATTALION, AND TWO MP COMPANIES. HE PLANS TO ALSO ATTACH LAF HELICOPTERS TO THE BRIGADE HQ. KHOURY SAID HE PLANS TO USE HIS SQUADRON OF HAWKER HUNTER ATTACK AIRCRAFT (NINE SERVICEABLE) AS WELL AS THE NAVY'S COASTAL PATROL AND SMALL CARGO VESSELS TO SUPPORT OPERATION.

6. KHOURY IS SEEKING MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. EGYPT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR THE LAF'S SOVIET MANUFACTURED 122MM ARTY BATTALION AS WELL AS RPG-7 ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE HAS CONFIRMED THIS TO DATT. THE SAUDIS HAVE MADE OFFER TO HELP, BUT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AS YET UNSPECIFIED ACCORDING TO KHOURY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE BRITISH ARE EXPEDITING THE SHIPMENT OF 50 SALADIN ARMORED CARS WHICH THE LAF HAS AGREED TO PURCHASE. UK DATT REVEALED THAT LEBANESE EVEN CONSIDERING AIR SHIPMENT OF FIRST FEW ARMORED CARS TO GET THEM INTO LAF HANDS ASAP.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS THERE IS APPROXIMATELY \$5.16 MILLION LEFT FROM PREVIOUS FY 72 CASES WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO EXPEDITE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT. WE EXPECT TO HAVE FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT FROM LEBANESE TODAY WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT IMMEDIATELY. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CREDIT PROCEDURES IS THAT BORROWER MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT ON A FORM LETTER PRESCRIBED BY THE CREDIT AGREEMENT FOLLOWED BY LOA FOR EACH CASE. IF FY 72 FUNDS CAN BE USED AND DECISION MADE TO SUPPLY ALL OR PART OF REQUEST, ASSUME MOST PAPERWORK CAN BE HANDLED AT YOUR END WITH US COORDI-  
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NATING AT MOD.

8. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I AM APPALLED AT KHOURY'S APPARENT INTENT TO DISPERSE M-16'S AROUND COUNTRY INSTEAD OF USING THEM TO EQUIP UNITS GOING TO SOUTH. I RECOMMEND OUR RESPONSE BE THAT WE ARE GIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO HIS REQUEST BUT CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVE TENTS, RIFLES OR UNIFORMS HERE BEFORE HE NEEDS TO MOVE UNITS SOUTH. (CAN WE SUGGEST HE BORROW TENTS FROM STOCKS NOW HELD BY GOL UNDER DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM?) IF HE WANTS TO GO COMMERCIAL ROUTE, WE SHOULD GIVE HIM ALL APPROPRIATE HELP, BUT SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IS GOING TO TAKE TIME TOO.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SMALL ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014